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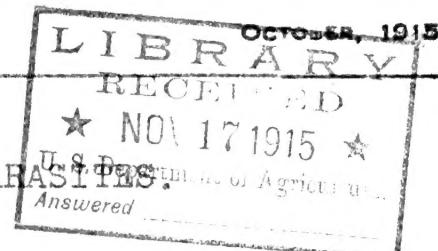
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MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

NUMBER 18.

THE DESIRABILITY OF HOST LABELS FOR PARASITES.



Recently while looking over a systematic paper prepared by one of the parasitologists of the bureau I noted that the data concerning hosts which accompanied the description was sometimes lacking and generally insufficient. For many years I have kept a card catalog of the recorded host relations of parasitic Hymenoptera, and a duplicate of this card catalog is now in the hands of Mr. Harry S. Smith of Sacramento, who is arranging it for possible publication under our joint authorship; and this is the reason why I have especially noticed this point. When field workers send in parasites for determination, many of which will of course be new to science, it is of great importance from my point of view that host labels should accompany the specimens. Of course a biological number referring to "Webster Notes" or "Hopkins Notes" or "Bureau Notes" will eventually enable some one to find out the facts concerning the host insects, but it is perhaps too much to expect of a systematic worker that he write for these data to headquarters, or to the field men, since often field notes are not sent in for months, and it frequently happens that the systematist is desirous of publishing immediately. Further the mere name of the host is not sufficient, but the stage should also be mentioned; that is, whether the parasite issued from the egg, from the larva, or from the pupa of the host. L. O. HOWARD.

Among the visitors at the Bureau during the month were the following:

C. P. Lounsbury, Chief of the Division of Entomology of the Union Department of Agriculture, South Africa.

H. A. Ballou, entomologist on the staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies.

C. W. Leng, New York; W. T. Davis, Brooklyn; W. S. Blatchley, Indianapolis. J. v. d. H. Schreuder, Pretoria, S. A.

THE EDIBILITY OF INSECTS.

Very little has been done recently toward testing the edibility of many species of very abundant insects which theoretically must have a very positive food value, but at my suggestion Mr. J. J. Davis and Mr. D. G. Tower at La Fayette, Ind., have recently experimented to some extent with the eggs and larvae of *Lachnostenra*. They find that *Lachnostenra* eggs crisply fried in butter are excellent, having a taste very much like a fine grade of bacon. The larvae, fried in butter and eaten with bread in the form of a sandwich, were not at all disagreeable, having a fresh fatty taste. They ate the heads and all, and the heads were crisp and caused no inconvenience. This line of experimentation seems to me very well worth while, and field agents having

the opportunity and disposition are urged to experiment in this direction when it can be done easily and without loss of time. L. O. Howard.

LIBRARY.

Miss Mabel Colcord, Librarian.

NEW BOOKS.

British Museum (Natural History) Catalogue of books... vol.V- So-Z. London, 1915.

This volume completes this splendid reference catalogue of natural history of which the first volume was published in 1903.

Doflein, Franz Das tier als glied des naturganzen. Leipzig und Berlin, 1914. 960 p. illus. 18 pl. (Hesse, Richard and Doflein, Franz. Tierbau und tierleben Bd. 2)

Fabre, J. H. Bramble-bees and others. Translated by Alexander Teixeira de Mattos. New York, 1915. 456p.

Holland, W. J. The butterfly guide. Garden City, N. Y., 1915. 237p.

Howard, L. O. Dyer, H. G. and Knab, Frederic The mosquitoes of North and Central America and the West Indies. V.3, pt. 1 (Systematic description pt. 1) Washington, 1915. 523p. 4' (Carnegie institution of Washington Publication No. 159. V.3)

Maxwell-Lefroy, H.M. The house-fly campaign. London, May, 1915. 16p. "Recent publications", p.16.

Morley, Claude Ichneumonologia Britannica V. Ophioninae. London, 1914. 400p. illus.

Ohio Agr. Exp. Station. Circular 154. Some important insect pests of the greenhouse. By R. D. Whitmarsh. White fly, Aleyrodes, Mealy-wing, snowy fly. p. 93-104. May 13, 1915.

Plowman, C.F. and Dearden, W.F. Fighting the fly peril. With an introduction by A. E. Shipley. London, 1915. 127p. illus.

Studhalter, R.A. ... Insects as carriers of the chestnut blight and **Ruggles, A.G.** fungus. Harrisburg, 1915. 34p. 4 pl. (Pennsylvania Dept. of Forestry, Bulletin no. 12) "Literature cited": p. 28-32.

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. List of workers in subjects pertaining to agriculture and home economics in the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture and in the state agricultural colleges and experiment stations. Corrected to August 1, 1915. Washington, Gov't Print. Off., 1915. 122p.

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BEE CULTURE.
 E. F. Phillips, In Charge.

Miss Myrtle Duckett has been appointed a Student Assistant to assist in recording the results of the wintering experiments.

Dr. E. F. Phillips leaves about November 20 to attend meetings of beekeepers in Ontario, Ohio, Chicago and Springfield, Ill., Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa and Michigan. This circuit of meetings has been arranged to make it easier for those interested to attend. The meeting at Grand Rapids, Michigan is the 50th convention of the Michigan society and elaborate preparations are being made for it.

In connection with the meeting of the Apiary Inspection Section of the Association of Economic Entomologists at Columbus, Ohio, in December, there will be held a conference on instruction in beekeeping in agricultural colleges and it is expected that practically all of the teachers of this subject will attend.

Mr. E. G. Carr spent the month of October in the mountain section of North Carolina and reports that beekeeping is not well developed there but that there is a wonderful opportunity for making it an important phase of agriculture since there is an abundance of nectar and plenty of bees to gather it if properly cared for.

 CERAL AND FORAGE INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.
 F. M. Webster, In Charge.

Mr. W. H. Larrimer, formerly located at the Wellington, Kansas field station, has been detached and stationed temporarily at Missoula, Mont.

Mr. C. L. Scott has been transferred from the Brownsville, Texas station to Wellington, Kansas.

Mr. R. J. Kewley, recently attached to the staff at the Lafayette, Indiana station, has been detailed to assist Mr. A. B. Gahan at College Park, Md.

Mr. Eric Cogan, temporarily employed at the Charleston, Mo., field laboratory, has resumed his studies at Ohio State University. Mr. Cogan is specializing in Jassoidea.

Mr. R. N. Wilson, in charge of the Gainesville, Fla., station will visit Washington early in November for the purpose of consultation.

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DECIDUOUS-FRUIT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.

A. L. Quaintance, In Charge.

Dr. Alden T. Speare has recently been appointed a specialist in insect diseases and will make a thorough study of entomogenous fungi, with a view to their practical utilization if possible in insect control. He will be glad to receive specimens of diseased insects from all sources, and the material should be accompanied with full data as to the host-species, extent of outbreak of the disease, locality, etc.

Mr. E. J. Newcomer will spend the winter months at his permanent field quarters, Wenatchee, Wash., and will give attention to questions connected with the winter life of certain orchard pests.

Mr. E. W. Scott, employed in connection with the enforcement of the Insecticide Act, made a trip of investigation through Georgia and Florida during late October.

Mr. John B. Gill, engaged in pecan insect investigations, has returned to his field headquarters, Monticello, Fla., from an extended trip through the Gulf States in connection with the study of pecan insects.

Mr. H. B. Scammell will spend the winter at his field station, Browns Mills, N. J., and will give special attention to questions connected with the hibernation of cranberry insects. Mr. R. J. Fiske will also spend the winter at his field headquarters, Roswell, N. Mex.

November 1, Mr. A. C. Baker will report for permanent duty in Washington and will be engaged in systematic studies of the Aphididae and Aleyrodidae. The biological studies of orchard plant lice in progress at the Vienna, Va., laboratory will, however, be continued by Messrs. A. C. Baker and W. F. Turner, Mr. Turner remaining at the laboratory at Vienna.

FOREST INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.

A. D. Hopkins, In Charge.

Mr. T. E. Snyder left on October 23 for a ten day trip to Savannah, Ga., Virginia and Tennessee. At Savannah he will inspect treated telephone poles for resistance to insect attack. This work is being done in cooperation with the American Telegraph and Telephone Co. In the latter States he is to inspect control work against the southern pine beetle by the Forest Service in the White Top Purchase Area and to mark newly infested trees for further control work.

Dr. A. D. Hopkins returned to his office on October 27 from Kanawha Station, W. Va., where he was on leave and continued his observations on phenological phenomena, forest and wood-boring insects.

SOUTHERN FIELD CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.
W. D. Hunter, In Charge

T. C. Barber delivered a number of addresses on the boll weevil in Georgia during the month. This work was a part of the plan of the Georgia State Board of Entomology to give special instructions to the planters in the districts which have recently become invaded by the boll weevil.

August Busck returned to Washington from the Hawaiian Islands where he carried on an investigation of *Gelechia gossypiella* for the Federal Horticultural Board.

E. A. McGregor has returned to his station in Batesburg, S. Car., from a western trip.

H. A. Morgan, Director of the Tennessee Experiment Station, visited Louisiana in company with W. D. Hunter for the purpose of making suggestions regarding the conduct of the boll weevil work on malaria mosquitoes.

E. R. Barber has returned to New Orleans after an extensive trip to determine the extent of the territory infested by the Argentine ant.

H. H. Kimball, who has been associated with D. L. Van Dine at Mound, La., will transfer his work to New Orleans where he will assist Dr. W. V. King in rearing *Anopheles* mosquitoes.

F. L. McDonough was engaged throughout the month with the determination of the limits of the dispersion of the boll weevil.

TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.
C. L. Marlatt, In Charge.

Dr. E. A. Back, in field charge of the Mediterranean fruit fly investigations in Hawaii, has returned to Honolulu.

Mr. David L. Crawford, formerly entomologist and horticulturist for the Mexico Gulf Coast Citrus Association, Tampico, Mexico, has submitted for publication in the Department of Agriculture a manuscript on the Mexican orange fly, *Anastrepha ludens* Loew.

Mr. J. R. Horton, in field charge of the citrus fruit insect investigations in Louisiana, recently submitted an account of the hurricane which passed through southern Louisiana on September 29. He reports that in an experimental orchard at Venice, fully 95 per cent of the oranges were blown off the trees, many of them being carried considerable distance. Orange trees were literally whipped to pieces, and the foliage discolored, as though scorched by fire. Practically all of the ant traps and fumigation covers at Happy Jack were destroyed. Many lights were broken out of the laboratory windows in New Orleans, and one chimney was blown down. A large percentage of the cages used

in fig-borer experiments were blown over, and many of the specimens disappeared. Mr. Horton left New Orleans on September 28, and was at a point near Doullut's Canal, which was in the worst section of the storm.

TRUCK CROP AND STORED PRODUCT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.
F. H. Chittenden, In Charge.

In the September number, page 6, mention is made of some interesting parasites of injurious truck crop insects. We have recently learned through Mr. F. R. Cole that the tachinid parasite *Siphona plusiae* Coq. has been reared from the cabbage looper (*Autographa brassicae*) from Whittier, Pasadena and Compton, Calif., the last locality being furnished by Mr. J. E. Graf. This species was described from *Autographa californica* Speyer from Southern California. Another parasite attacks this species but it has not been reared or identified as yet.

We have received from Mr. C. F. Stahl, Spreckels, Calif., a sample of walnuts badly infested by the Mediterranean flour moth, (*Ephestia kuehniella*). These were obtained in October of the present year. It also occurs in peanuts in the East.

1960 and 1961. The 1960 data were collected from the 1960 census and the 1961 data were collected from the 1961 census.